

U.S. Department of
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**United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

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PRESTIGIOUS READINESS AWARD EARNED BY COAST GUARD STATIONS ON NANTUCKET AND MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Woods Hole, Mass. –U.S. Coast Guard Station Brant Point, Nantucket, MA and Station Menemsha, Martha's Vineyard, MA recently underwent a national standardization inspection to assess their compliance with Coast Guard training, readiness and maintenance standards. Stations Brant Point and Menemsha produced outstanding results, scoring 49 and 45 points, respectively, of a maximum of 50 points. 33 points is required for a satisfactory inspection. The superior results of these inspections entitle these units to the U.S. Coast Guard's Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award. This represents the second time Station Brant Point has earned this prestigious award, which is bestowed on only the top 10 percent of Coast Guard small boat units. Station Menemsha's performance marks the first occasion a Coast Guard unit classified as a Station Small has earned this award.

The Sumner I. Kimball Award recognizes excellence in boat crew knowledge and proficiency and compliance with readiness standards including rescue and survival systems, boat maintenance and training. Typical inspections include thorough boat inspections, comprehensive written examinations for boat coxswains, engineers and crewman as well as underway boat handling, navigation and engineering casualty control drills. Also included is an evaluation of the unit's training and rescue and survival systems programs.

Beginning in 1848 coastal lifesaving stations were funded much like present-day volunteer fire departments. These stations were staffed entirely by volunteers from the local community with funding provided only for equipment and the stations themselves. This situation persisted until 1871 when a young attorney from Maine, Sumner I. Kimball was appointed as the chief of the Treasury Department's Revenue Marine Division. Kimball drew up regulations that set standards for personnel performance, physical standards and station routines. He convinced Congress to increase the funding of the Service to provide for full-time, professional crews who served under the direction of an appointed keeper. New stations were constructed along the coast which were equipped with the finest lifesaving equipment available at the time. In 1878, this growing network of stations was organized as a separate agency of the Treasury Department and was dubbed the U.S. Life-Saving Service. Kimball was chosen as the General Superintendent of the new service. He served in that capacity during the entire existence of the Life-Saving Service until it was merged with the Revenue

Cutter Service in 1915 to form the modern day Coast Guard. The Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award reflects Kimball's commitment to readiness and it is bestowed upon only a small percentage of Coast Guard small boat units that demonstrate exceptional commitment to operational excellence.

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